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CLAIMS

1. A process for presenting interactive program guide information to a user, comprising the steps of:

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providing a program guide area;

wherein said program guide area is semi-transparent and overlays the broadcast program that the user is currently watching, allowing the user to see the progress of the broadcast program;

receiving user command input;

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displaying a first column in said program guide area;

said first column displays the available program channels in a rotating endless channel list;

wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said channel list;

displaying a second column in said program guide area;

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said second column displays the program list for a specific channel; and

wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said program list.

2. The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

highlighting an element in a column; and

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said highlight step is responsive to a user's commands.

3. The process of claim 2, wherein said highlight step displays a highlight bar to highlight an element.

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4. The process of claim 2, wherein said second column displays the program list for a channel highlighted by the user.

5. The process of claim 2, wherein whispering arrows are displayed when information exists in the indicated direction and wherein information is more detailed as the highlight is moved to the right.

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The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

displaying a start time above said first column; and

wherein said start time is modifiable by the user.

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5 ¹²~~7~~. The process of claim ¹¹~~6~~, wherein said channel list comprises channel numbers, channel IDs and the name of the program playing during said start time on each channel number.

10 ¹³~~8~~. The process of claim ¹¹~~6~~, wherein said second column displays programs for the selected channel starting from said start time.

⁶~~9~~ The process of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
displaying a description of a program highlighted by the user in said program guide area.

15 ⁷~~10~~ The process of claim ⁶~~9~~, wherein said program description is displayed above said first and said second columns in said program guide area.

20 ¹⁴~~11~~ The process of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
displaying the channel number and ID above said second column; and
wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

25 ¹⁵~~12~~ The process of claim ¹⁴~~11~~, wherein said channel list follows the user's channel selections, scrolling backward or forward in said channel list.

30 ⁸~~13~~ The process of claim 2, further comprising the step of:
displaying the channel number and ID above said second column; and
wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

35 ⁹~~14~~ The process of claim ⁸~~13~~, wherein said program list changes to the programs associated with the channel number highlighted by the user, starting at the time indicated above said first column.

40 ¹⁶~~15~~ The process of claim 1, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name, said program list is in descending order from the most recent time to the latest time.

¹⁷~~16~~ The process of claim 1, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name and continues the intermediate time intervals by listing each half, quarter hour, or selectable intervals, and wherein the duration of each

- 5 program is displayed using an indicator extending from the program start time down to the program end time.

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17. The process of claim 2, wherein the user highlights a program in said second column and moves said highlight to the right to obtain a detailed information screen for said program.

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18. A process for presenting interactive program guide information to a user, comprising the steps of:

providing a program guide area;

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wherein said program guide area is semi-transparent and overlays the broadcast program that the user is currently watching, allowing the user to see the progress of the broadcast program;

receiving user command input;

displaying a first column in said program guide area;

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said first column displays channel sorting methods available to the user;

displaying a second column in said program guide area;

said second column displays the available program channels in a rotating endless channel list; and

wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said channel list.

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19. The process of claim 18, further comprising the step of:

displaying a third column in said program guide area;

said third column displays the program list for a specific channel; and

wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said program list.

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20. The process of claim 19, wherein two columns are displayed at a time.

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21. The process of claim 19, wherein said first column and said second column are displayed in said program guide area.

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22. The process of claims 18 or 19, further comprising the step of:
highlighting an element in a column; and
said highlight step is responsive to a user's commands.

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~~24~~ The process of claim ²¹~~22~~, wherein the user moves the highlight to the right of said second column to display said second and said third columns in said program guide area.

- 15 ²⁵~~26~~. The process of claim ²¹~~22~~, wherein said third column displays the program list
for a channel highlighted by the user.

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~~27~~ The process of claim ²¹~~22~~, wherein whispering arrows are displayed when
information exists in the indicated direction and wherein information is more detailed
20 as the highlight is moved to the right.

- Sub 34/ 28. The process of claims 18 or 19, further comprising the step of:
displaying a start time above said second column; and
wherein said start time is modifiable by the user.

- 25 ~~29~~³³ The process of claim ~~28~~³², wherein said channel list comprises channel numbers, channel IDs and the name of the program playing during said start time on each channel number.

- 30 ³⁴~~30~~ The process of claim ³²~~28~~, wherein said third column displays programs for the
selected channel starting from said start time.

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~~31~~ The process of claim ²¹~~22~~, further comprising the step of:
displaying a description of a program highlighted by the user in said program
35 guide area.

- ~~32~~²⁸ The process of claim ~~31~~²⁷, wherein said program description is displayed in the upper portion of said program guide area.

- 40 33. The process of claim 19, further comprising the step of:

5 displaying the channel number and ID above said third column; and
wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

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~~34~~ The process of claim ³⁵~~33~~, wherein said channel list follows the user's channel
selections, scrolling backward or forward in said channel list.

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~~35~~ The process of claim ²¹~~22~~, further comprising the step of:
displaying the channel number and ID above said third column; and
wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

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~~36~~ The process of claim ²⁹~~35~~, wherein said program list changes to the programs
associated with the channel number highlighted by the user, starting at the time
indicated above said first column.

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20 37. The process of claim 19, wherein said program list lists the start time of each
program next to the program name, said program list is in descending order from the
most recent time to the latest time.

25 38. The process of claim 19, wherein said program list lists the start time of each
program next to the program name and continues the intermediate time intervals b y
listing each half, quarter hour, or selectable intervals, and wherein the duration of each
program is displayed using an indicator extending from the program start time down
to the program end time.

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~~39~~ The process of claim ²¹~~22~~, wherein the user highlights a program in said third
column and moves said highlight to the right to obtain a detailed information screen
for said program.

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40. An apparatus for presenting interactive program guide information to a user,
comprising:

35 a program guide area;
wherein said program guide area is semi-transparent and overlays the
broadcast program that the user is currently watching, allowing the user to see the
progress of the broadcast program;

a module for receiving user command input;
40 a module for displaying a first column in said program guide area;

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said first column displays the available program channels in a rotating endless channel list;

wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said channel list;

a module for displaying a second column in said program guide area;

said second column displays the program list for a specific channel; and

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wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said program list.

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~~41~~. The apparatus of claim ³⁹~~40~~, further comprising:

a module for highlighting an element in a column; and

said highlight module is responsive to a user's commands.

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~~42~~. The apparatus of claim ⁴⁰~~41~~, wherein said highlight module displays a highlight bar to highlight an element.

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~~43~~. The apparatus of claim ⁴⁰~~41~~, wherein said second column displays the program list for a channel highlighted by the user.

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~~44~~. The apparatus of claim ⁴⁰~~41~~, wherein whispering arrows are displayed when information exists in the indicated direction and wherein information is more detailed as the highlight is moved to the right.

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~~45~~. The apparatus of claim ⁴⁰~~40~~, further comprising:
a module for displaying a start time above said first column; and
wherein said start time is modifiable by the user.

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~~46~~. The apparatus of claim ⁴⁹~~45~~, wherein said channel list comprises channel numbers, channel IDs and the name of the program playing during said start time on each channel number.

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~~47~~. The apparatus of claim ⁴⁹~~45~~, wherein said second column displays programs for the selected channel starting from said start time.

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~~48~~. The apparatus of claim ⁴⁰~~41~~, further comprising:
a module for displaying a description of a program highlighted by the user in said program guide area.

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5 ⁴⁶~~49~~ The apparatus of claim ⁴⁴~~48~~, wherein said program description is displayed above said first and said second columns in said program guide area.

⁵²~~50~~ The apparatus of claim ³⁹~~40~~, further comprising:
a module for displaying the channel number and ID above said second
10 column; and
wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

⁵³~~51~~ The apparatus of claim ⁵²~~50~~, wherein said channel list follows the user's channel selections, scrolling backward or forward in said channel list.

15 ⁴⁶~~52~~ The apparatus of claim ⁴⁰~~41~~, further comprising:
a module for displaying the channel number and ID above said second column; and
wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

20 ⁴⁷~~53~~ The apparatus of claim ⁴⁶~~52~~, wherein said program list changes to the programs associated with the channel number highlighted by the user, starting at the time indicated above said first column.

25 ⁵⁴ The apparatus of claim ³⁹~~40~~, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name, said program list is in descending order from the most recent time to the latest time.

30 ⁶⁵ The apparatus of claim ³⁹~~40~~, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name and continues the intermediate time intervals by listing each half, quarter hour, or selectable intervals, and wherein the duration of each program is displayed using an indicator extending from the program start time down to the program end time.

35 ⁴⁸~~56~~ The apparatus of claim ⁴⁰~~41~~, wherein the user highlights a program in said second column and moves said highlight to the right to obtain a detailed information screen for said program.

40 ⁵⁷ An apparatus for presenting interactive program guide information to a user, comprising:

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5 a program guide area;
wherein said program guide area is semi-transparent and overlays the
broadcast program that the user is currently watching, allowing the user to see the
progress of the broadcast program;
a module for receiving user command input;
10 a module for displaying a first column in said program guide area;
said first column displays channel sorting methods available to the user;
a module for displaying a second column in said program guide area;
said second column displays the available program channels in a rotating
endless channel list; and
15 wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said channel list.

58. The apparatus of claim 57, further comprising:
a module for displaying a third column in said program guide area;
said third column displays the program list for a specific channel; and
20 wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said program list.

59. The apparatus of claim 58, wherein two columns are displayed at a time.

60. The apparatus of claim 59, wherein said first column and said second column
25 are displayed in said program guide area.

61. The apparatus of claims 57 or 58, further comprising:
a module for highlighting an element in a column; and
said highlight module is responsive to a user's commands.

62. The apparatus of claim 61, wherein said second column displays the
30 available channels that correspond to the sorting method highlighted by the user.

63. The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the user moves the highlight to the right of
35 said second column to display said second and said third columns in said program
guide area.

64. The apparatus of claim 61, wherein said highlight module displays a highlight
40 bar to highlight an element.

5 ⁶³~~65~~ The apparatus of claim ⁵⁴~~61~~, wherein said third column displays the program list for a channel highlighted by the user.

⁶⁴~~66~~ The apparatus of claim ⁵⁹~~61~~, wherein whispering arrows are displayed when information exists in the indicated direction and wherein information is more detailed
10 as the highlight is moved to the right.

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⁶⁷~~67~~ The apparatus of claims 57 or 58, further comprising:
a module for displaying a start time above said second column; and
wherein said start time is modifiable by the user.

15 ⁷¹~~68~~ The apparatus of claim ⁷⁰~~67~~, wherein said channel list comprises channel numbers, channel IDs and the name of the program playing during said start time on each channel number.

20 ⁷²~~69~~ The apparatus of claim ⁷⁰~~67~~, wherein said third column displays programs for the selected channel starting from said start time.

⁶⁵~~70~~ The apparatus of claim ⁵⁹~~61~~, further comprising:
a module for displaying a description of a program highlighted by the user in
25 said program guide area.

⁶⁶~~71~~ The apparatus of claim ⁶⁵~~70~~, wherein said program description is displayed in the upper portion of said program guide area.

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30 ⁷²~~72~~ The apparatus of claim 58, further comprising:
a module for displaying the channel number and ID above said third column;
~~and~~
wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

35 ⁷⁴~~73~~ The apparatus of claim ⁷³~~72~~, wherein said channel list follows the user's channel selections, scrolling backward or forward in said channel list.

⁶⁷~~74~~ The apparatus of claim ⁵⁹~~61~~, further comprising:
a module for displaying the channel number and ID above said third column;
40 and

5 wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

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75. The apparatus of claim ⁶⁷~~74~~, wherein said program list changes to the programs associated with the channel number highlighted by the user, starting at the time indicated above said first column.

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¹³¹²76. The apparatus of claim 58, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name, said program list is in descending order from the most recent time to the latest time.

15 77. The apparatus of claim 58, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name and continues the intermediate time intervals by listing each half, quarter hour, or selectable intervals, and wherein the duration of each program is displayed using an indicator extending from the program start time down to the program end time.

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~~78~~ The apparatus of claim ⁶⁹~~81~~, wherein the user highlights a program in said third column and moves said highlight to the right to obtain a detailed information screen for said program.

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^{As}25 79. A program storage medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for presenting interactive program guide information to a user, comprising the steps of:
providing a program guide area;
wherein said program guide area is semi-transparent and overlays the
30 broadcast program that the user is currently watching, allowing the user to see the progress of the broadcast program;
receiving user command input;
displaying a first column in said program guide area;
said first column displays the available program channels in a rotating endless
35 channel list;
wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said channel list;
displaying a second column in said program guide area;
said second column displays the program list for a specific channel; and
wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said program list.

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81. The method of claim 80, wherein said highlight step displays a highlight bar to
10 highlight an element.

15 ⁸¹~~80~~ The method of claim ⁷⁸~~80~~, wherein whispering arrows are displayed when
information exists in the indicated direction and wherein information is more detailed
as the highlight is moved to the right.

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85. The method of claim 87, wherein said channel list comprises channel
numbers, channel IDs and the name of the program playing during said start time on
25 each channel number.

30 ⁸²~~87~~ The method of claim ⁷⁸~~80~~, further comprising the step of:
displaying a description of a program highlighted by the user in said program
guide area.

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89. The method of claim 77, further comprising the step of:
displaying the channel number and ID above said second column; and
wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

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91 The method of claim 80, further comprising the step of:
displaying the channel number and ID above said second column; and
0 wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

15 ~~42~~⁹³. The method of claim ~~79~~⁷⁷, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name, said program list is in descending order from the most recent time to the latest time.

20 93. The method of claim 77, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name and continues the intermediate time intervals by listing each half, quarter hour, or selectable intervals, and wherein the duration of each program is displayed using an indicator extending from the program start time down to the program end time.

25 ~~86~~⁸⁶ The method of claim ~~80~~⁷⁸, wherein the user highlights a program in said second column and moves said highlight to the right to obtain a detailed information screen for said program.

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5 said second column displays the available program channels in a rotating
endless channel list; and
wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said channel list.

97. The method of claim 96, further comprising the step of:
displaying a third column in said program guide area;
said third column displays the program list for a specific channel; and
wherein the user scrolls or pages up or down said program list.

98. The method of claim 97, wherein two columns are displayed at a time.

99. The method of claim 98, wherein said first column and said second column are
displayed in said program guide area.

100. The method of claims 96 or 97, further comprising the step of:
highlighting an element in a column; and
said highlight step is responsive to a user's commands.

101. The method of claim 100, wherein said second column displays the available
channels that correspond to the sorting method highlighted by the user.

102. The method of claim 100, wherein the user moves the highlight to the right of
said second column to display said second and said third columns in said program
guide area.

103. The method of claim 100, wherein said highlight step displays a highlight bar
to highlight an element.

104. The method of claim 100, wherein said third column displays the program list
for a channel highlighted by the user.

105. The method of claim 100, wherein whispering arrows are displayed when
information exists in the indicated direction and wherein information is more detailed
as the highlight is moved to the right.

106. The method of claims 96 or 97, further comprising the step of:

- 5 displaying a start time above said second column; and
wherein said start time is modifiable by the user.

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~~107~~ The method of claim ¹⁰⁸~~106~~, wherein said channel list comprises channel numbers, channel IDs and the name of the program playing during said start time on
10 each channel number.

¹¹⁰
~~108~~ The method of claim ¹⁰⁸~~106~~, wherein said third column displays programs for the selected channel starting from said start time.

- 15 ¹⁰³
~~109~~ The method of claim ⁹⁷~~100~~, further comprising the step of:
displaying a description of a program highlighted by the user in said program guide area.

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~~110~~ The method of claim ¹⁰³~~109~~, wherein said program description is displayed in
20 the upper portion of said program guide area.

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B17 111. The method of claim 97, further comprising the step of:
displaying the channel number and ID above said third column; and
wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

25 112. The method of claim 111, wherein said channel list follows the user's channel selections, scrolling backward or forward in said channel list.

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~~113~~ The method of claim ⁹⁷~~100~~, further comprising the step of:
30 displaying the channel number and ID above said third column; and
wherein said channel number and ID are modifiable by the user.

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~~114~~ The method of claim ¹⁰⁵~~113~~, wherein said program list changes to the programs associated with the channel number highlighted by the user, starting at the time
35 indicated above said first column.

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B18 115. The method of claim 97, wherein said program list lists the start time of each program next to the program name, said program list is in descending order from the most recent time to the latest time.
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117. The method of claim 100, wherein the user highlights a program in said third column and moves said highlight to the right to obtain a detailed information screen for said program.

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